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INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Information on Village of Golemanovo,
Kula Okoliya

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1. Golemanovo has an independent obshtina with a People's Soviet. Andrey Tsankov, 32 years old, a Communist, is chairman of the Soviet. He took an active part in forming the TKRS /Cooperative Labor Farm/. Peko Tsankov Vulchev was formerly chairman, but now is Secretary of the Party. Ivan Tsankov Tobosharski, secretary of the People's Soviet, about 29 years old, treats the villagers well and assists the underground and diversionaries with whom he is in contact. Stoyan Lilov Vulkov, secretary and tax collector, a Party member, is painstaking in his work, but does not treat the villagers badly. The People's Soviet with the Party organization and its secretary decide on the quotas which the villagers must give the state. The Okoliya Committee of the Party always sends its delegate, since it does not trust local people to burden the villagers with the maximum quotas which the government wants. The villagers hide grain and do not fulfill their quotas. Many of them cannot fulfill their quotas. Some villagers are punished with fines and imprisonment. Ivan Andreev Vankov, 50 years old, a member of BZL /Bulgarian National Agrarian Union/ sentenced in 1951 to six months' imprisonment, and Stanko Angelov, also a member of BZNS, fine and three months' imprisonment. On the houses of these villagers is placed a sign reading "Enemy of the people, follower of Belkov and Stoyanov, traitors to the native land".
2. In 1944, the local Communist Party had very few adherents or sympathizers. The militia helped raise the membership to 50 people, but after 1951 almost all of them left. Today there are about 20 reliable Party members. Many of the members were excluded by the leadership and others were disappointed /and left/. Peko Tsanev Vulchev, 38 years old, a Communist, is secretary of the party. Up to 1951, he was chairman of the People's Soviet. Stoyan Zhivanov Stoyanov, 28 years old, dangerous Communist, a ruffian and informer of the militia. Iozan Zhivkov, 35 years old, a dangerous ruffian for the members of the opposition, is a barber by profession. Ivan Dochkov, 27 years old, a farmer in the TKRS, is a dangerous Communist. Peko Tsakov, 25 years old, a member of BZNS, /Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation/ is a dangerous agent of the regime. He is armed as are all fanatical Communists. They fear the opposition in the villages which is very great and will never stop. All are former members of BZNS. Party meetings were held every week, but lately have been

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held less frequently because none were attending them. Those who attend them are always the same people who talk about the same things, against the opposition, against "traitors", about quotas, about irregularities in the TKZS, about arrests, and about internment and fear. All listen to foreign radio stations, especially the Voice of America. Even the Communists exchange news in the morning, although this is a secret. The secretary of the Party even said at one meeting of "Party members" in the village that they must work still harder because "government with G M Dimitrov had been formed abroad. The other Communists replied that they knew about this, but had remained silent. The Party secretary, Peko Tsanev Vulchev was awarded a gold medal and a financial prize which were given him for propaganda reasons because the village is only three kms from the border and many of the villagers have emigrated to Yugoslavia. In the village, the most reliable farmers received the Bulgarian newspaper of the Bulgarian National Committee in New York. Some who were members of the Party in 1923 were expelled because they spread the news about the National Committee among the villagers and were not active: these include Vulko Tsankov Zhikov, 50 years old, a former Communist, and Zhivko Vulkov, also an old Communist, excluded because he criticized the Party line and had connections with the opposition.

3. The TKZS was formed by force in Golemanovo in the spring of 1951. The fact that they could not form one up to this time shows how great the opposition of the villagers was. In the beginning there were 50 families as members, but after they were coerced with beatings, arrests, fines, and confiscation of livestock, equipment, and grain, the membership increased to 150 households. At the time the TKZS was formed, the following villagers were arrested and driven to Kula where they were beaten by the militiamen, Party members, and by agents of the State Security: Ivan Andreev Van'ov, Tsanko Gerov, Tsanko Georgiev Toshkov, Peko Georgiev Markov, and Yordan Georgiev Markov, all members of BZNS. In the obshtina over 100 villagers were arrested and tortured for refusing to enter the TKZS. A short time after the formation of the TKZS, many active Communists were disappointed and resigned from the TKZS. These resignations were not honored by the TKZS nor by the Party and these Communists were noted as adherents of the opposition and later were persecuted. Some were excluded from the TKZS as enemies of the people and saboteurs. Their livestock, land, and equipment were left in the TKZS. During May 1951, the TKZS members held a mass demonstration against the robbing of villagers and the taking of their land by the TKZS. Over 150 people from the TKZS took part in this demonstration, for they wanted their land and equipment back. The wife of Trifun Vanchov went into the yard and attempted to take some bulls, but Peko Tsanov, who was then secretary of the Party and chairman of the TKZS, fired his revolver and wounded her in the hand. The crowd was dispersed with weapons and with the help of the militia. Tsanko Tsanov is vice-chairman of the TKZS. Pop Neshe is cashier of the TKZS. The TKZS worked the land with available equipment collected from the villagers. Only occasionally tractors from the MTC Machine Tractor Station in Kula come to the village since there are not enough tractors and agricultural machinery. The propaganda line is that the USSR has supplied agricultural machines to Bulgaria. Those which have been supplied are old and painted over. There are only small quantities of them, coming from the GDR (German Democratic Republic), Czechoslovakia, and the USSR. The TKZS has only three grain drills. Threshers were sent from the MTS in Kula. The laws of the TKZS are strictly carried out, since the Party has organized the work. The members are afraid of the State Security. None of the TKZS members are satisfied with working day rates, especially during 1953 when the rate was about 1.50 leva per work day and one kg of wheat. The private farmers, although persecuted and robbed, are more satisfied than members of the TKZS. They are burdened with heavy taxes and state grain quotas. The taxes are so heavy that private farmers cannot pay them and the tax collector confiscates the best fields and gives them to the TKZS. Georgi Ivanov, with 60 decares of land, had to give seven thousand kgs of grain, three thousand kgs of corn, some forage, and sunflower seeds. Stoyan Yotov, with 100 decares of land, was taxed 14,500 kgs of grain and over seven thousand kgs of corn and had to give milk and meat. His bulls were later confiscated and his best fields were taken. In addition, they had to pay high taxes for no reason.

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4. The name of the cooperative is "Napreduk" and it was formed shortly before 1944 by members of the BZNS. Iyuben Yonchev, cashier of the cooperative, 27 years old, a Communist, has a secondary school education. He was accused of misusing 250 thousand leva in old money and spent one year in prison. Andreyko Ivanov, 40 years old, is the accountant of the cooperative. A member of BZNS he is kept there because there is no Communist to replace him so that he can be sent to prison. He is an honest man and a good farmer.
5. In Vidin Okoliya, there are villagers who support members of the resistance movement in the interior of Bulgaria and even as far as Stalin. During 1948, a resistance group attacked a labor unit near Dolen Chiflik, Stalin Okoliya, and arrested the brigade members. These illegal groups are now in contact with persons in Kula, Vidin, and Kjustendil areas through couriers. The signal for listening to the Voice of America is: "Come on, let's not be late for church".
6. In 1950 the following villagers were expelled from the village: Tsoko Stefanov, 50 years old, a former chairman of the village BZNS, interned with his whole family, (father, mother, wife, son, and sister); Ivan Tachev, also an active member of BZNS, interned with his wife and two sons; Georgi Ukonov, an active member of BZNS, interned with his wife, 60 years old; and Stoyan Yotov, a member of BZNS, interned with his wife, father, mother, and two children, (a son and a daughter). All were accused of being "followers of Dimitrov and Petkov, enemies of the people, and kulaks". They were interned somewhere in southern Bulgaria and their belongings were confiscated by the Communist authorities. On 10 Apr 51, a mass expulsion of families of emigres took place. Nine families are in Dobrudzha. The expulsion took place in the night and the village was blocked off by the militia and Party members. They were loaded without baggage into trucks. Tsanko Rangelov, an active member of BZNS, was interned as a member of the opposition in the Nozharevo prison and no one knows where he is now.
7. In 1950, in the village, an underground organization called the "Aleksandur Stamboliyski" organization was formed by united farmers. It had connections with the west through diversionaries and other underground farmers. The authorities did not officially discover the organization and its conspiratorial activity, but through suspicion treated some of its members very cruelly. These people were forced to flee to Yugoslavia: Ninko Kostov, Zhiko Talkov, Vutko Petkov, Tsoko Stefanov, and Toshko Ts Georgiev. The following persons remained and are still active: Yordan Georg Markov, 32 years old; Peko Georg Markov, 35 years old; Becho Krustev Bechev, 33 years old; and, Nesho Pekov Stoyanov, 35 years old. All are members of the BZNS.
8. Golemanovo is only three kms from the border. A barracks in the village quarters one company from the Vidin Third Infantry Regiment. The barracks is located at the end of the village near the Golemanovo-Kula highway. In 1951, soldiers from Vratsa arrived to strengthen the border. In addition, border troops from the "Brest" poduchastuk are stationed in the village. The soldiers from the company are attached to the border poduchastuk and number in all about 200 men, six officers, and 13 noncommissioned officers. The border troops are armed with Soviet rifles, a late model with bayonets, MG-34 machine guns, and a new model of Soviet machine guns, German and Soviet Schneissers / submachine guns / with drum magazine, grenades, mortars, and pistols. In 1951, the border area of this poduchastuk was greatly reinforced. Soviet officers in uniform and in civilian clothes were instructing / the Bulgarians / in the construction of two-and three-row trench fortifications along the border, in the construction of pillboxes, machine gun nests, and gun platforms. Near the border in the direction of Kula outside the village, trenches, tanks, and antitank obstacles have been set up. The latest information is that special reinforced concrete blocks have been placed at the turn of the highway and immobile objects have been placed along the highway so that in case of necessity it could be blocked off. The assistant commander of the poduchastuk is Lieutenant Psychev, who is the political commissar of the unit. He is 30 years old, a former partisan, and after 1944 he was given special training in the USSR. He was divorced from his first wife and has married a girl from Golemanovo. He is a depraved drunkard. He was born in Plovdiv Okoliya. The border troops have comparatively good food

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and are well dressed. Some of the soldiers have connections with the villagers and are openly against the Communist regime and against their leaders who are very cruel. This applies especially to the Communist officers. In 1950, Radko and Ivubeh, two southern Bulgarian soldiers from the poduchastuk, were in a conspiracy with villagers from Golemanovo and other villagers in Kula Okoliya. A long inquiry was made, but the commanders of the poduchastuk did not discover anything. Ambushes have been set up by the "Brest" poduchastuk along the border, at border posts, at bridge defenses, at roads near the border and within an area of 10-12 kms from the border. The border zone is 30 kms wide and cannot be visited without permits and open identification papers. Three times per week the border troops have meetings at which their commanders and political commissars talk to them about the Soviet Communist Party, the BKP (Bulgarian Communist Party), the victorious Red Army, and against US imperialism and traitors. There is talk of war among the soldiers and Party members. Communists especially are expecting it at any time. All are certain that the USSR will be conquered and the Bulgarian soldiers feel that no one should fight against the people and their liberators.

9. The border is defended by border troops, by uniformed militiamen stationed in the area along the border, and by a secret agent of the State Security who is attached to the border guards. Faithful and fanatical Party members are in close cooperation with the border troops. They are armed with carbines, Schneissers, submachine guns, grenades, pistols, and light machine guns. In each village near the border each Party organization has its own weapons and private storehouses with munitions and weapons which are placed in the charge of leaders or secretaries of the Party. DOSO members also give support and cooperation to the border troops and have the following duties:
 - (a) Providing men for ambush points where it is known that underground persons, diversionaries, or members of the opposition pass.
 - (b) Serving as ordinary "travelers" walking along roads which connect villages with the border in order to control travelers using the roads. Their weapons are well hidden.
 - (c) Establishing liaison between the Party secretaries and political commissars in border uchastuks and presenting every three days a report on suspicious persons, on members of the opposition and on the movements of the villagers.
 - (d) Serving as reinforcement for the border posts in case of need. Ambushes are of two types: small ambushes which consist of two soldiers, one militiaman, and one Party member. This group is armed with one rifle and three Schneissers submachine guns, grenades; and, a large ambush consists of six men usually placed at crossroads. In addition to Schneissers and grenades, this type of ambush has a light machine gun.
10. In Golemanovo, Kula Okoliya, the following fanatical Communist Party members participate in many ambushes to uncover underground groups and persecute diversionaries: Paun Vatsov, 52 years old, who is paid for his service; Tsolo Vatsov, 47 years old; Yoncho Pekov, 45 years old; Vuko Pekov, 40 years old; and Toahko Tsakov, 50 years old. They receive special cards for moving around as well as special food, shoes, and clothing, and they have the right to enter the villagers' homes at any time of the day or night, to arrest, to beat, and to kill innocent citizens.

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